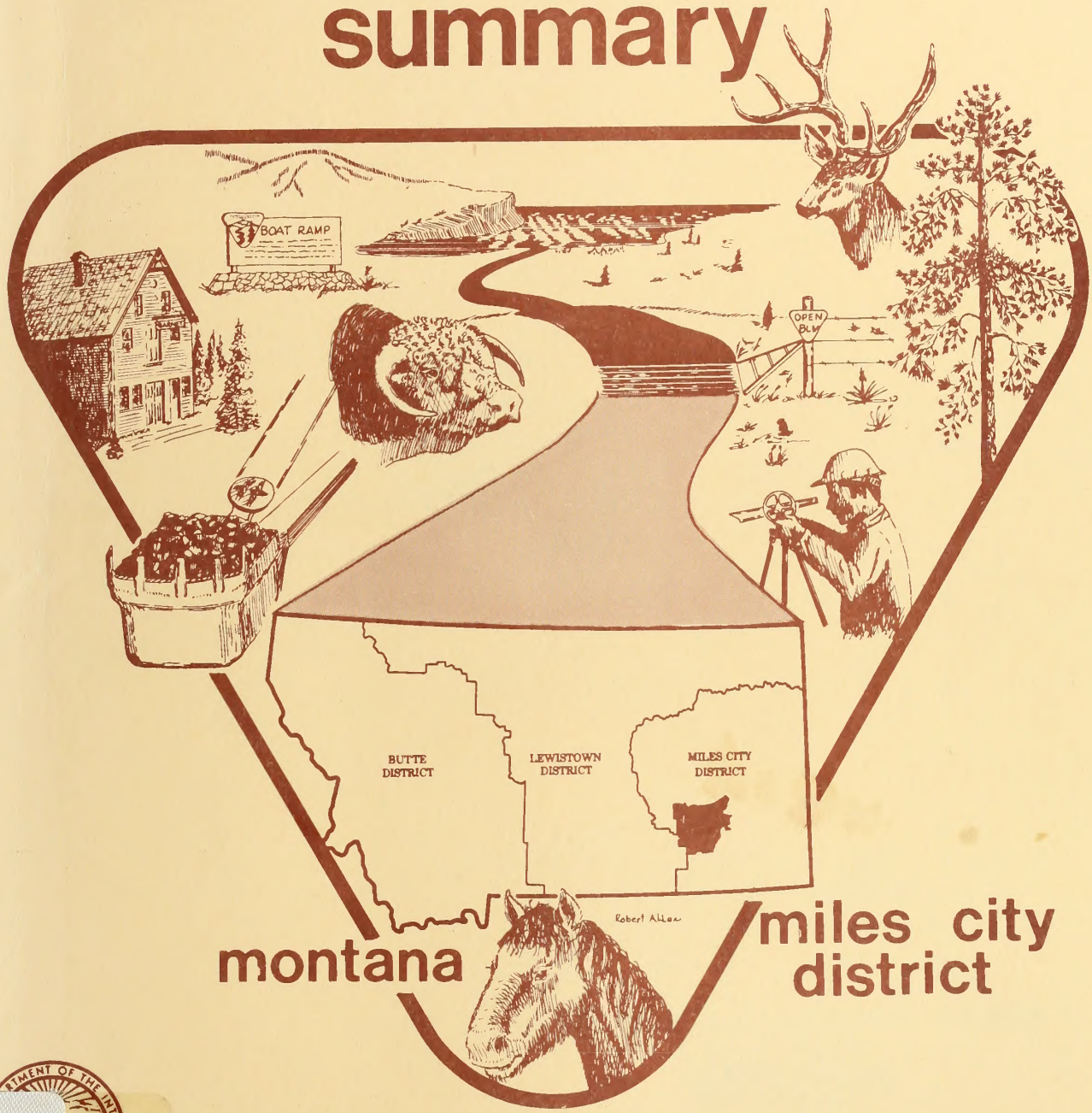
BLM LIBRARY
88001923

South rosebud

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

summary



montana

miles city district

HD
243
.M9
P682
1977

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

#5246937
88001923
HD
243
.M9
P682
1977

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

South Rosebud Planning Unit

July 1977

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
Miles City District
Powder River Resource Area

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LIBRARY
Denver, Colorado
88001923
Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Preface

The Bureau of Land Management's Montana State organization manages resources on almost 8.4 million acres of surface land and 55 million acres of subsurface minerals in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Miles City BLM District Office is responsible for more than 3.5 million surface and 12.6 million subsurface acres. These public lands are used by many people for a variety of activities. It is BLM's responsibility to develop coordinated land use allocations specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for the utilization or protection of the public's resources.

To better prepare for present and future demands on public lands, BLM has developed land use plans for many areas of the state. This pamphlet contains a summary of the land use decisions for the public lands in South Rosebud Planning Unit covering approximately 28,100 surface and 270,900 subsurface acres in Rosebud and Custer Counties.

These decisions were made after gathering all available resource data and obtaining the viewpoints of local citizens and the user public. This information, as well as the technical expertise of BLM resource specialists, was combined, analyzed, and considered in formulating the land use decisions outlined on the following pages. By design, these decisions are flexible so they can deal with new demands or new conditions that may arise. They will be updated or revised as necessary to help keep this Management Framework Plan current and effective.

In the interest of clarity and brevity, this report is a summary document of the total planning process. The planning effort was made from 1973-1975 for the South Rosebud

Planning Unit. Specific information materials not included in this report are detailed maps, detailed physical and resource inventory data, and social and economic data. These materials, as well as the other components of BLM's land use planning process, are available for public review during regular business hours at the Miles City District Office. If you wish to review these documents, please make an appointment so we can have someone available to discuss them with you.

My staff and I thank everyone who assisted in this effort, especially those who attended our public meetings or contributed to the final product. We look forward to working with you again in formulating similar plans or updating older plans as the need arises.

George S. Neuberg
District Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction

BLM Planning System 1
Planning Assumptions. 4

General Description of the Area. 4

Resources Administered by BLM. 7

Lands 7
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Minerals. 10
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Timber. 15
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Range 17
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Watershed 18
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Wildlife Habitat. 23
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Recreation Program. 31
Background
Resource Allocation Decisions

Public Participation in the Planning Process 34

Montana BLM Organization 36

List of BLM Office Addresses and Phone Numbers 39

Listing of Maps

	Page
General Location Map	6
Lands Management Program	9
Mineral Management Program	14
Timber Management Program	16
Range Management Program (Proposed AMP Area)	19
Watershed Management Program	22
Wildlife Habitat Program	30
Recreation Management Program	33
BLM District Boundary & Office Location Map	38

Illustrations

BLM Planning System	3
Ownership and Acreage Statistics	5
Coal Field Statistics	13
Acreage Statistics (Montana BLM Organization)	36
Organizational Chart (BLM)	37

Introduction

A. BLM Planning System

Under the Bureau's planning system, available information is gathered, studies are made, and management decisions are developed in seven categories. These categories are lands, minerals, timber, range, watershed, wildlife habitat, and recreation. In order to meet the needs of its diverse public users, BLM must effectively balance the management of these resources. Under the concept of multiple use management, all potential uses of the public's resources are equally considered and evaluated before a management framework plan (MFP) is developed and implemented.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed its land use planning system with three major components:

Program Direction
Resource Information
Management Decisions

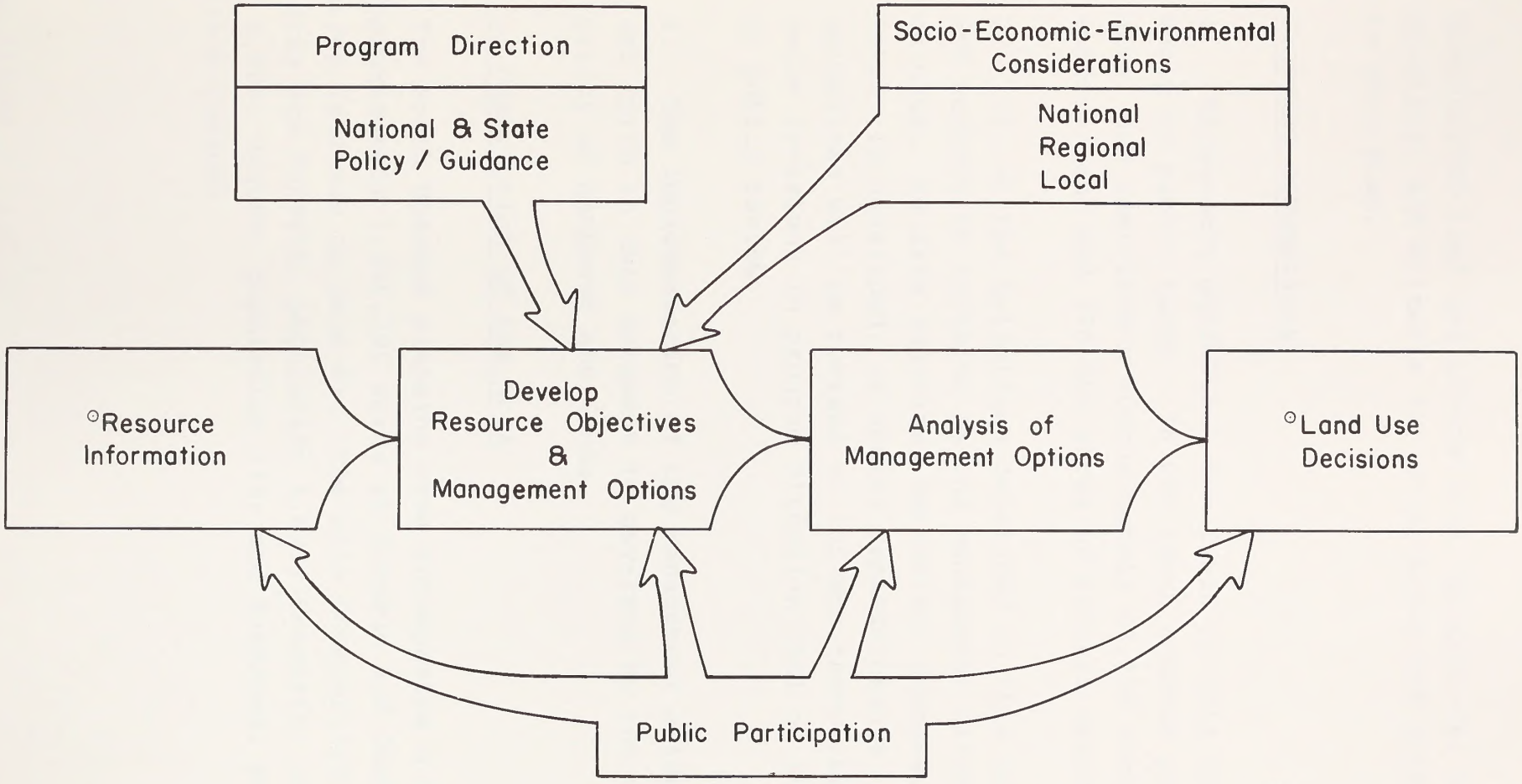
1. Program Direction. General program direction, policies, goals, and priorities are set by the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior. These directions are expressed in executive orders, laws, regulations, and other documents.

2. Resource Information. In initiating this phase of the planning system, BLM specialists gather all of the necessary land and resource information relative to the region under study. Each resource specialist--the forester, range conservationist, minerals specialist, watershed specialist, etc.--analyzes the situation within the planning unit area to determine current condition, use, trends, and problems concerning his

resource responsibility. This analysis is then further developed to identify maximum potential for the resource use without consideration of competing or conflicting uses. The importance of this step is that each resource potential is considered individually. In addition, socio-economic data is gathered and analyzed and an ecological profile is prepared to facilitate the evaluation of land use alternatives generated by the planning system. In compiling the above information, the Bureau contacts traditional, as well as new interests, to be certain that all available data has been obtained before the planning process is completed.

3. Management Decisions. The next phase of the planning system is designed to resolve resource use conflicts and to provide basic guidelines for the use and management of the public lands being analyzed. This is the heart of the planning system. At this stage, each resource specialist prepares objectives and outlines specific proposals for the optimum use of his resource based on current technology, program direction, and the socio-economic needs of the region. Each individual resource proposal is then fully documented and individually presented utilizing a map and overlay system. At this point, conflicts between various resource proposals and possible multiple use solutions are identified through careful analysis and utilization of narratives, maps, and overlays. Based on comments and information received through public participation, BLM managers are often able to develop additional land use alternatives and multiple use solutions. The impacts of each of these alternatives are identified and analyzed to facilitate the selection of the best mix of uses. A comprehensive land use plan is then developed and adopted.

B.L.M. PLANNING SYSTEM



°Lands
°Minerals
°Range
°Recreation
°Watersheds
°Timber
°Wildlife

B. BLM Planning System Flowchart

Coordinated land use allocations, guidelines, constraints, and criteria for utilization are intrinsic to this plan.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Management guidelines set forth in this document apply to public lands. In the South Rosebud planning area, BLM administers approximately 48,100 acres of surface land and 270,900 acres of mineral estate.

2. All of the guidelines developed in this analysis are subject to revision as the management climate changes. As data improves, technology changes, legislation is developed, or social demands change, these guidelines will be revised to reflect those changes. Major revisions in program direction will be subject to public review.

3. The implementation of the management guidelines set forth in this document is governed by the availability of manpower and funds.

General Description of the Area

The South Rosebud planning area encompasses a region of approximately 1,028,200 acres in Rosebud and Custer Counties (see map on page 6). The main communities within the area are Forsyth, population 1,823; Colstrip, population 2,000; Hysham, population 373; and Hathaway, population 30 (1970 Census).

The most dominant and important physical features include the Yellowstone River and Rosebud Creek drainages. Numerous drainages dissect the area creating interstream uplands and gently rolling plateaus.

Mining, tourism, and ranching are the major contributors to the area economy.

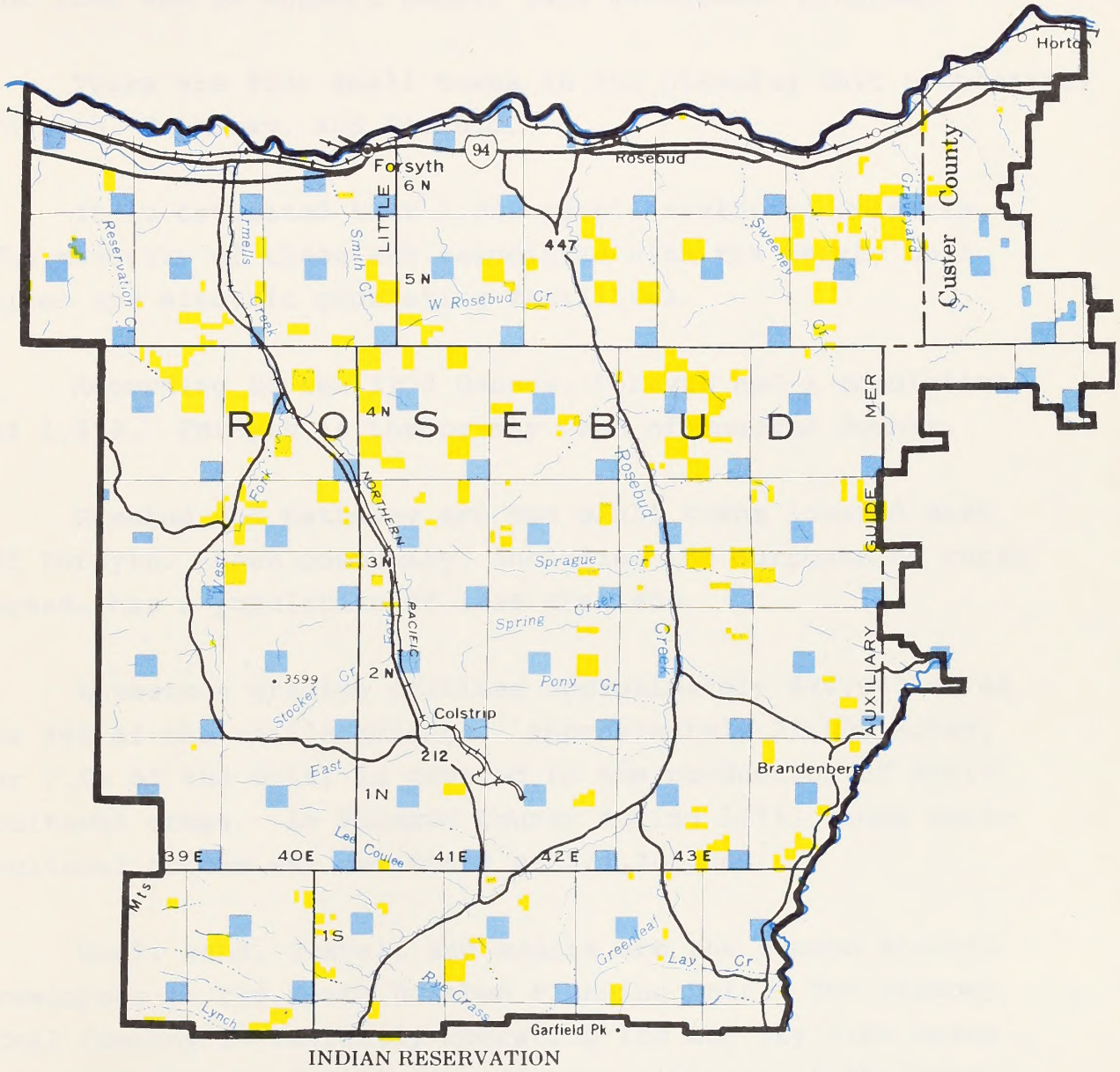
There are two strip mines in the area near Colstrip. Both mines contribute significantly to the local economy. Colstrip is a company town owned by Western Energy.

The surface ownership of the planning area is predominantly private with scattered tracts of public lands. However, approximately 26% of the subsurface estate is in federal ownership.

OWNERSHIP AND ACREAGE STATISTICS

	Public Lands	%	State	%	Private	%
Surface	48,100	4.7	52,800	5.1	927,300	90.2
Subsurface	270,900	26.0	52,800	5.1	704,500	68.9

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT



INDIAN RESERVATION

BLM

State

Resources Administered by BLM

A. Lands Program (Background)

BLM's Lands Program is designed to meet public needs for land and to support public land management programs.

There are four small towns in the planning unit - Colstrip, Forsyth, Hathaway, and Rosebud.

It is estimated that 2,000 people reside at Colstrip. The majority of these are associated with the nearby coal mines and electric generating facilities.

According to the 1970 Census, Forsyth had a population of 1,832. Forsyth is the county seat of Rosebud County.

Rosebud and Hathaway are two small towns located east of Forsyth. Each community, including the surrounding rural areas, has a population of less than 400.

Livestock grazing utilizes approximately 820,000 acres or 88% of the unit's acreage. Approximately 77,000 acres, or 7.5% of the unit, is devoted to the production of agricultural crops. In Rosebud County during 1973, gross agricultural income was estimated at $24,200,000.

Coal, sand, gravel, and scoria are the common mineral resources in the South Rosebud Planning Unit. The Peabody Coal Company is currently operating its Big Sky Mine seven miles southeast of Colstrip. In the vicinity of the town of Colstrip, Western Energy Company has a mine. Deposits of sand and gravel are abundant along the Yellowstone River and its larger tributaries. Scoria is used throughout the planning unit for road surfacing.

The BLM administers approximately 4.7% of the surface estate in the planning unit. However, approximately 26% of the mineral estate has been retained in federal ownership.

There have been relatively few lineal rights-of-way granted for the construction of transmission lines, roads, or pipelines across public lands in the planning unit.

Land Resource Allocation Decisions

1. The following parcels (L-1) will be retained in federal ownership pending possible future use for recreation or public purposes:

T. 6 N., R. 38 E., Sec. 18:	Lots 4, 6
T. 6 N., R. 43 E., Sec. 8:	Lot 5
T. 4 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 26:	SE¼SE¼
T. 1 N., R. 41 E., Sec. 14:	N½
T. 6 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 20:	Portion on Yellowstone River
T. 6 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 24:	SW¼SE¼
Three islands in the Yellowstone River	

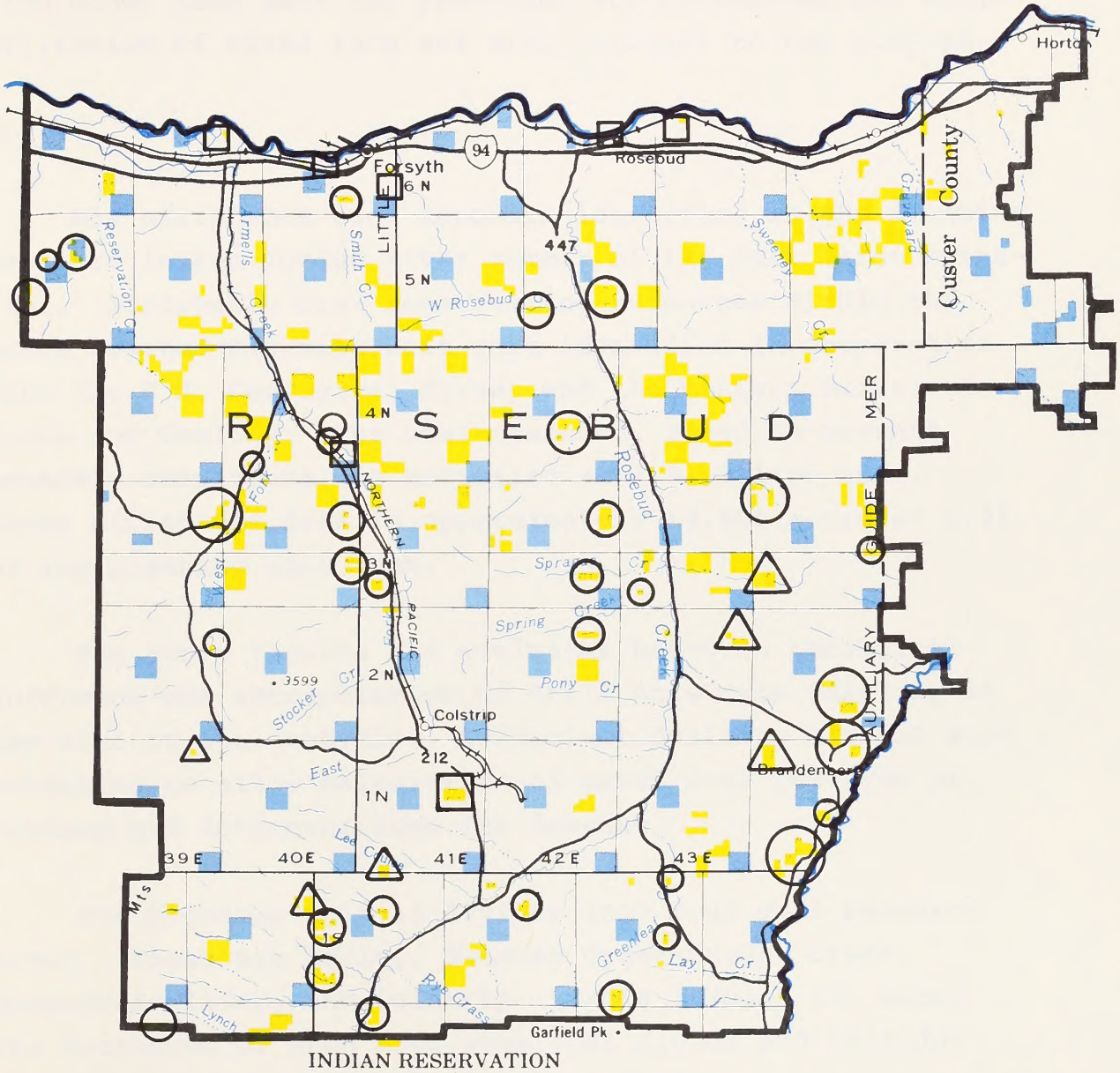
2. Federal lands underlain by coal (L-2) will be considered for disposal through state selection. The State of Montana is still in the process of selecting lands that are owned by the federal government in lieu of lands lost inside National Forest and Indian Reservation boundaries. In some cases, lands lost by the state may have had coal deposits under them. For this reason, the state has expressed an interest in selecting lands underlain by similar coal deposits.

3. Federal lands (L-3), which are not needed for intensive federal management, will be considered for disposal through state selection or exchange.

4. The remaining public lands will be retained in federal ownership.

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT

Lands Management



INDIAN RESERVATION

BLM

State

L-1 Retain for possible recreation/public purposes

L-2 Coal areas, considered for disposal

L-3 Other areas considered for disposal

B. Minerals Program (Background)

BLM's mineral program includes economic analysis, appraisal, and disposal of minerals by lease, license, and permit. Coordination of exploration and mining activities with other land uses and provision for protection and rehabilitation of mined land are also integral to the program.

Coal

All strippable coal deposits identified in the planning unit are in the Tongue River member of the Fort Union Formation. Strippable coal reserves and resources within the South Rosebud Planning Unit were identified in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The coal resource, based on present economic conditions, is estimated at 2.3 billion tons. Total strippable area is approximately 64,500 acres or 6.3% of the planning unit area.

The above figures are estimates based on geological inference and extrapolation of drill hole data existing at the time of the analysis. Sufficient drilling has not been conducted to allow calculation of exact coal reserves or minimum bid determinations for leasing.

The planning unit is divided into four coal resource areas. These are Burley, Sweeney Creek-Snyder Creek, Greenleaf-Miller, and Colstrip. Table 1 (page 13) shows the breakdown of each area into coal fields and includes reserve figures and other pertinent data.

Two companies presently have mining operation in the Colstrip area. Peabody Coal Company's Big Sky Mine is

located seven miles southeast of Colstrip. At the time of the study, annual coal production was 1.5 million tons. Western Energy's mine is located adjacent to the Colstrip townsite. At the time of the study, production was 5.5 million tons annually.

Oil and Gas

Little oil and gas exploration has occurred within the planning unit. However, oil and gas is known to exist in the area. Moderate oil and gas exploration can be anticipated in the near future.

Sand, Gravel, and Scoria

Abundant sand and gravel are found in the northern portion of the planning unit. A broad well defined terrace borders the Yellowstone River. The gravel capping the terraces consists of smoothly rounded unconsolidated pebbles up to six inches in diameter.

Scoria of sufficient hardness is good road surfacing material and has been used extensively in the unit for secondary roads. Western Energy, through one of its subcontractors, has removed scoria from its property near Colstrip for use in parking lots, temporary building sites, and railroad ballast.

Mining Claims

No locatable minerals are known to exist within the South Rosebud Planning Unit, although there may be some uranium potential.

Mineral Resource Allocation Decisions

Coal

1. Leases will be issued on federal coal that lies within designated strippable deposits and which has not been eliminated from development due to resource conflicts. Leases will be issued in the following priorities:

   a. Colstrip
   b. Greenleaf-Miller Creek
   c. Sweeney Creek-Snyder Creek
   d. Burley

2. The BLM will request the Department of Defense to relinquish the coal reserve withdrawal in T. 1 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 4, 5, and 5, and T. 2 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 31: lots 3 and 4, E½SE¼ and SE¼, and all of Sec. 32.

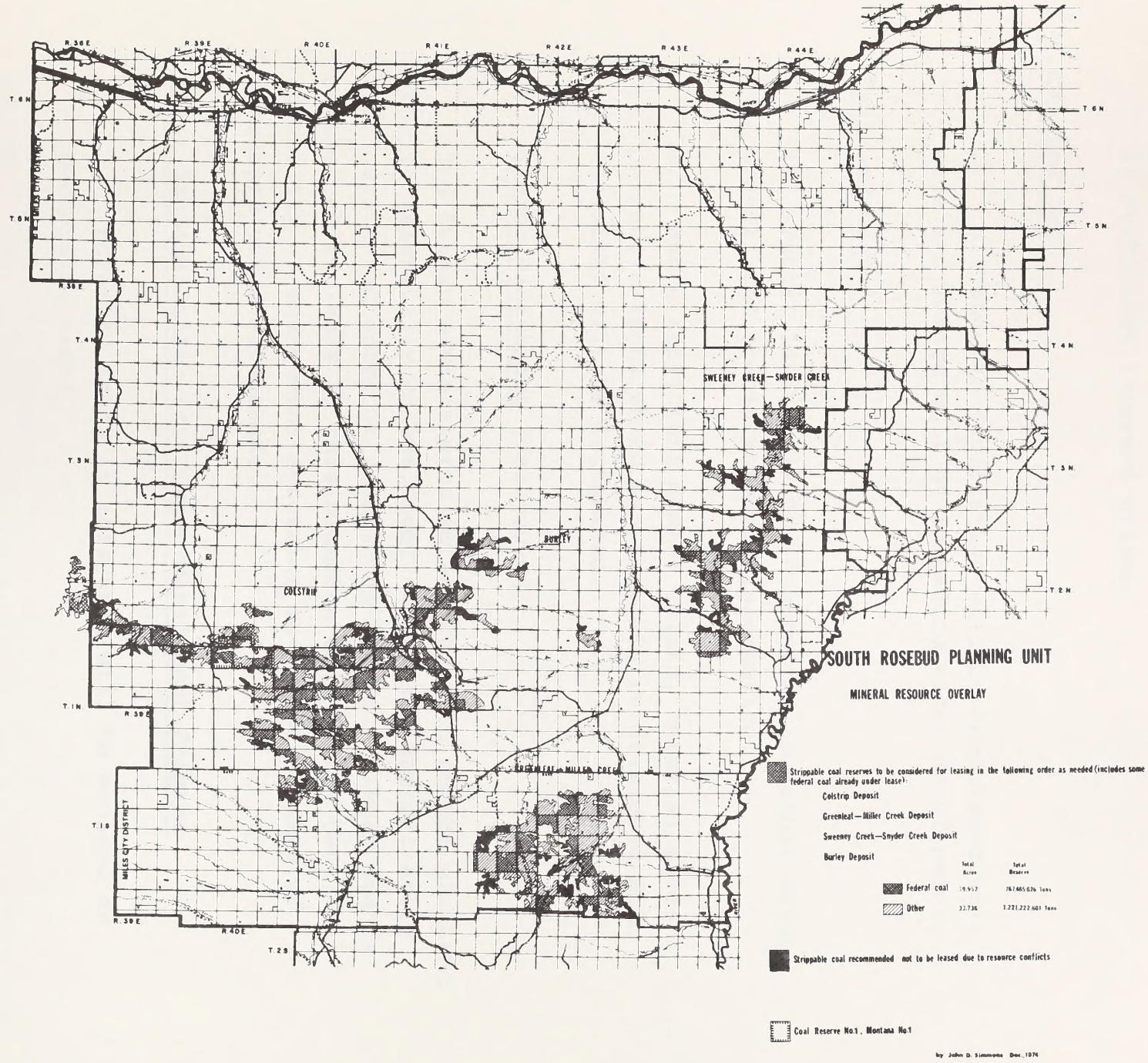
3. Specific lease sites suitable for strip mining and reclamation will be identified.

4. Areas with insufficient data will be excluded from leasing until enough information is available to allow valid planning.

5. Contract drilling programs in coal resource areas in concert with appropriate state and federal agencies will be continued. Important additional data on coal and subsurface soil and water will be generated by these programs.

Table 1

COAL FIELD	STRIPPABLE BED	THICKNESS	STRIPP. ACRES TOTAL FIELD	STRIPP. RESERVES TOTAL FIELD	STRIPP. ACRES PLANNING UNIT	STRIPP. RESERVES PLANNING UNIT	FEDERAL STRIPP. ACRES PLANNING UNIT	FEDERAL STRIPP. RESERVES PLANNING UNIT	FEDERAL STRIPP. ACRES UNDER FEDERAL SURFACE	FEDERAL STRIPP. RESERVES UNDER FEDERAL SURFACE	TONS/ACRES	ASH	SULFUR	BTU
Sweeney Creek-Snyder Creek	Terret	18.0 ft	10,921	326,330,000	10,921	326,330,000	3,920	124,891,200 (tons)	520	16,307,200	29,880.10	9.25	0.7	8,175
Greenleaf-Miller Creek	Sayer	10-19 ft	14,918	453,710,000	14,918	453,710,000	7,962	242,148,306	320	9,600,000	30,413.0	7.8	0.8	8,395
	Rosebud	9-13 ft										7.8	0.8	8,395
	Knobloch	13.5-23 ft										7.5	0.71	8,422
Colstrip	Rosebud	25 ft	33,379	1,439,260,000	33,379	1,439,260,000	14,464	623,658,752	660	29,205,000	43,118	8.1	0.7	8,572
	McKay	9 ft	2,359	22,151,000	2,354	22,151,000					15,750	7.0	1.2	8,469
Burley	Burley	7.0 ft	2,880	35,683,200	2,880	35,683,200	1,200	14,363,000	None	None	12,390	-	-	-


R 38 E
R 39 E
R 40 E
R 41 E
R 42 E
R 43 E
R 44 E
T 6 N
T 5 N
T 4 N
T 3 N
T 2 N
T 1 N
T 1 S
T 2 S
MILES CITY DISTRICT
SWEENEY CREEK—SNYDER CREEK
BURLEY
COLSTRIP
GREENLEAF—MILLER CREEK
SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT
MINERAL RESOURCE OVERLAY
Strippable coal reserves to be considered for leasing in the following order as needed (includes some federal coal already under lease):
Colstrip Deposit
Greenleaf—Miller Creek Deposit
Sweeney Creek—Snyder Creek Deposit
Burley Deposit
Total Acres
Total Reserves
Federal coal 19,952 767,665,676 Tons
Other 33,736 1,221,222,601 Tons
Strippable coal recommended not to be leased due to resource conflicts
Coal Reserve No.1, Montana No.1
by John D. Simmons Dec. 1974

6. Coal for domestic use will be offered to individuals in the area. A community pit will be established if sufficient interest arises.

Oil and Gas

1. Oil and gas exploration will be encouraged unit wide and leases will be issued to allow development.

Sand and Gravel

1. Public lands will be inventoried to gather sand, gravel, and scoria resource information.

2. Where sufficient demand exists, material sites on public lands which can feasibly be developed and reclaimed will be designated.

C. Timber Management (Background)

The Bureau administered forest resource on the planning area is essentially undeveloped. There are approximately 2,277 scattered acres of commercial timber. Timber stands on the public lands in this planning unit do not have the capability of management according to the principles of sustained yield management.

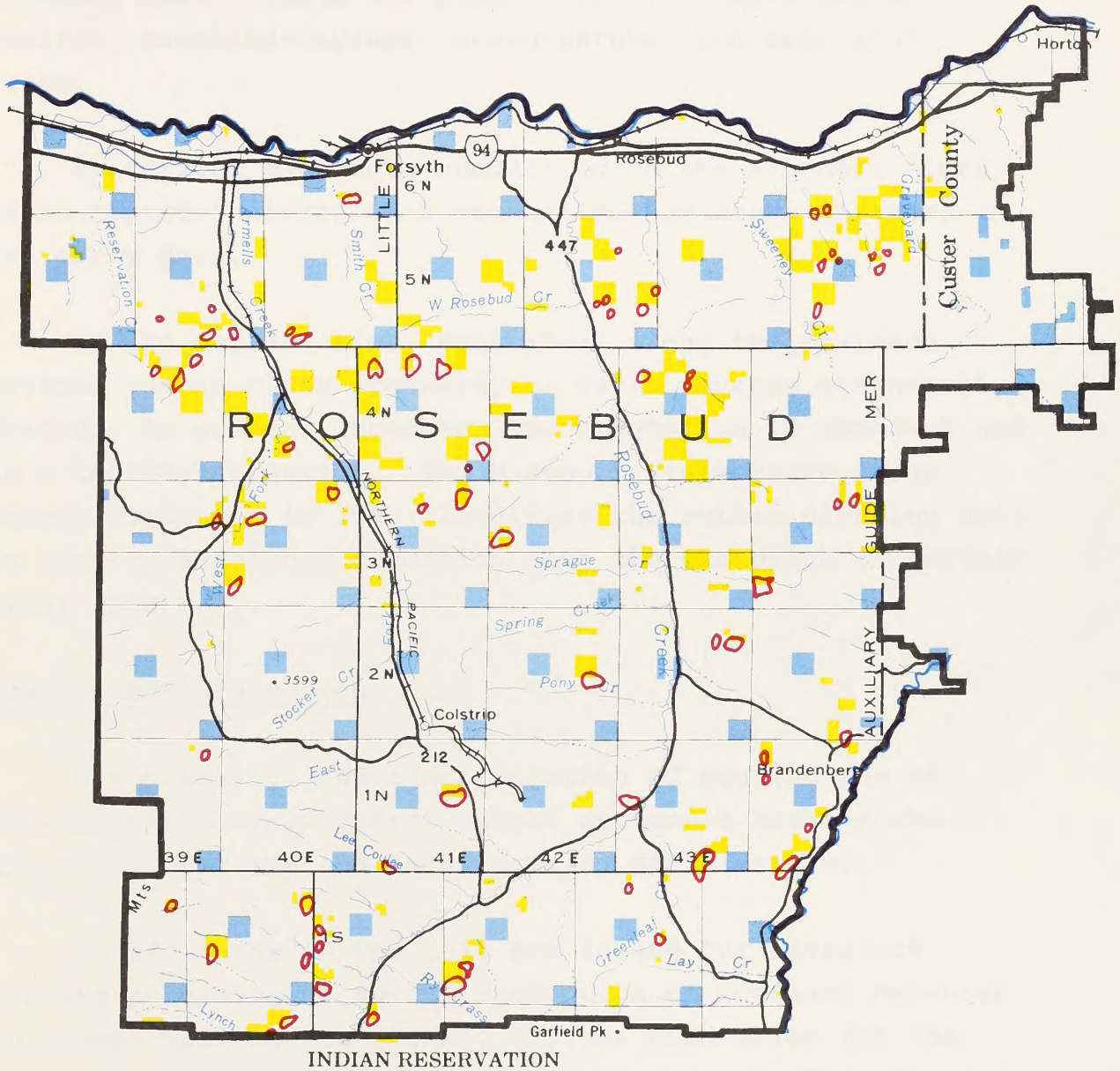
Major Recommendation for Timber Management Program

1. Forested lands in this unit will be managed as protection areas.

2. Pole and post sales will be permitted on a demonstrated need basis. Necessary precautions must be taken to prevent damage of the existing understory vegetation and soils.

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT

Timber Management



BLM

State

BLM Timber Lands

D. Range Management Program (Background)

Condition and Trend

There are six major vegetative types found in the planning unit. Those are pine-juniper, grass-sagebrush, conifer, cropland-hayland, brush-shrubs, and broadleaf trees.

Historical documents summarized in the Missouri River Basin report indicate that vegetation was scant at times in the early days.

At the present time, some areas along the drainage bottoms and in close proximity to water sources are heavily grazed. In general, however, the vegetation is abundant and in a healthy condition. The Missouri River Basin range survey conducted in 1966 classifies the entire planning unit in good to excellent condition with the exception of certain areas (see MFP).

Grazing Administration

Historically, the administration of grazing use on federal lands evolved from mutual agreement between the livestock operator and local grazing administrator.

Public lands in the unit are leased for livestock grazing according to forage production of the land measured in animal unit months (AUMs). Forage production for the public lands in the planning unit was determined in the Missouri River Basin Study to be 7,962 AUMs.

The BLM has not initiated any formal allotment management plans in the planning unit. However, some ranchers commonly use a deferred-rotation grazing system in their normal operations.

Range Resource Allocation Decisions

1. The BLM will implement allotment management plans on all suitable allotments. Artificial treatment for increased forage production on public lands will not be undertaken until intensive grazing management has been implemented.

2. The BLM will maintain a level of management which will provide for at least a sustained yield of livestock forage on the remainder of the public lands in the planning unit.

E. Watershed Program (Background)

The Bureau's watershed conservation and development system assesses watershed conditions and needs and identifies management practices to solve watershed problems.

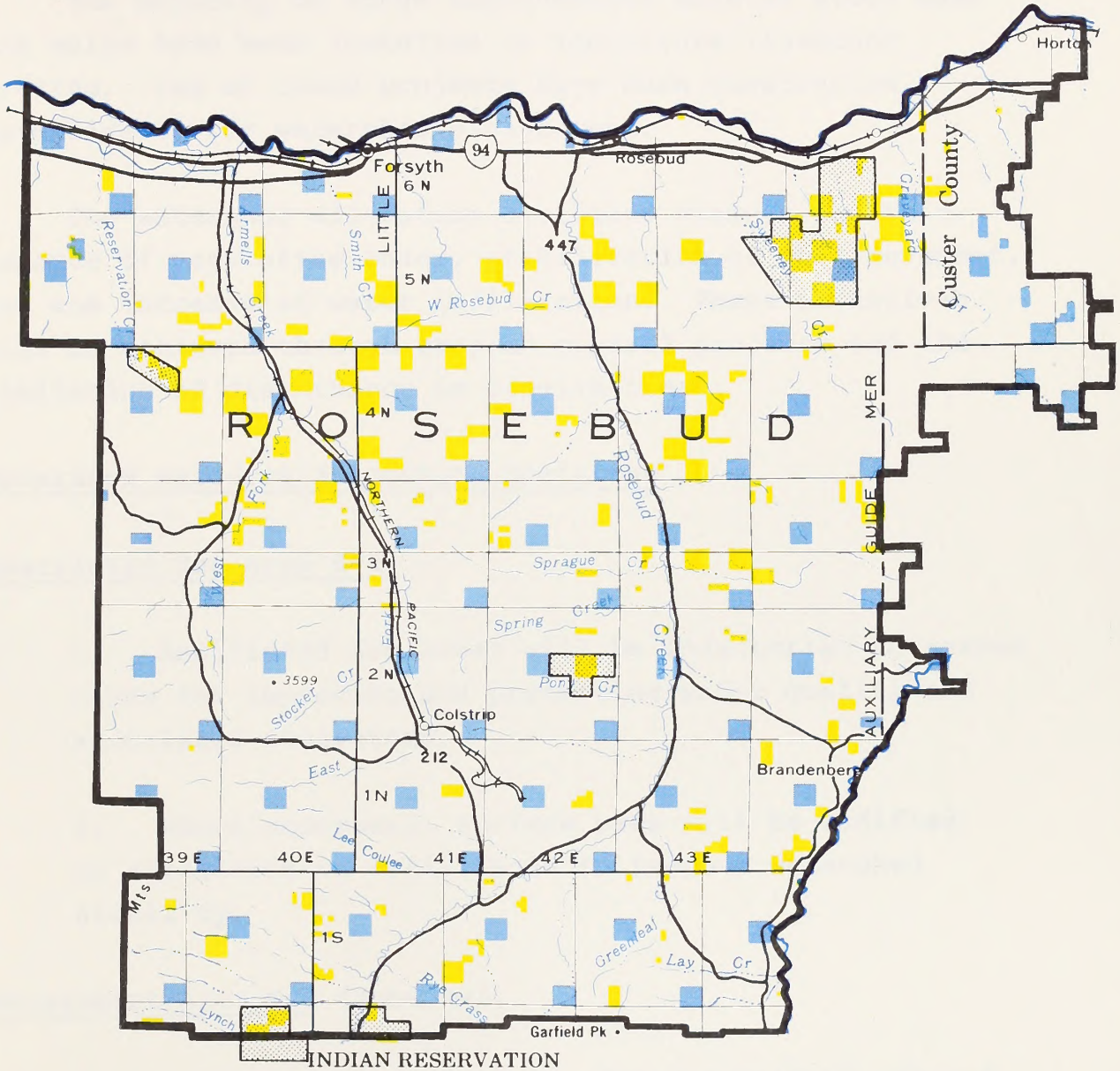
Based on a watershed inventory, the following erosion condition classes were identified for public lands within the planning unit:

EROSION CONDITION CLASS ON PUBLIC LANDS
(ACRES)

Stable	Slight	Moderate	Critical	Severe
39,853	488,188	474,978	25,147	0

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT

Range Management



BLM

State

Allotment management plan areas

The runoff potential and erosion hazard values for this area vary from low to high. The susceptibility of the land to accelerated erosion from man's activities is the single most important factor effecting watershed management.

The majority of range improvements such as stock dams and wells have been installed to facilitate livestock grazing. Few of these projects have been constructed specifically for watershed enhancement.

The watershed allocation decisions promote the maintenance of vegetative cover, stabilization of soil movement, and the increase of water infiltration. These objectives will be achieved through erosion control projects and the limitation of disturbance in fragile areas.

Watershed Resource Allocation Decisions

Restricted Use Area K-4

1. Restricted use areas will be inventoried to assess needs for improving and protecting water quality and associated ecosystems.

2. Where necessary, surface uses will be modified or eliminated on frail lands to improve watershed stability.

Management Area K-5 (Zone A-1)

3. Alluvial bottoms and floodplains will be managed to maintain or improve watershed conditions. Management practices will include the installation of water control structures and vegetation manipulation, where necessary, to reduce soil movement and improve water quality.

Management Area K-5 (Zone A-2)

4. Surface uses will be managed to maintain a high percentage of ground cover to improve watershed stability.

5. The means by which other resources (ranges, wildlife, etc.) can be managed to benefit the watershed resource will be identified.

6. The use of control structures to maintain water quality on the lower reaches of a few drainages will be investigated.

Management Area K-5 (Zone A-3)

7. Watershed stability will be maintained by limiting activities that significantly reduce ground cover, such as off-road vehicle use and strip mining.

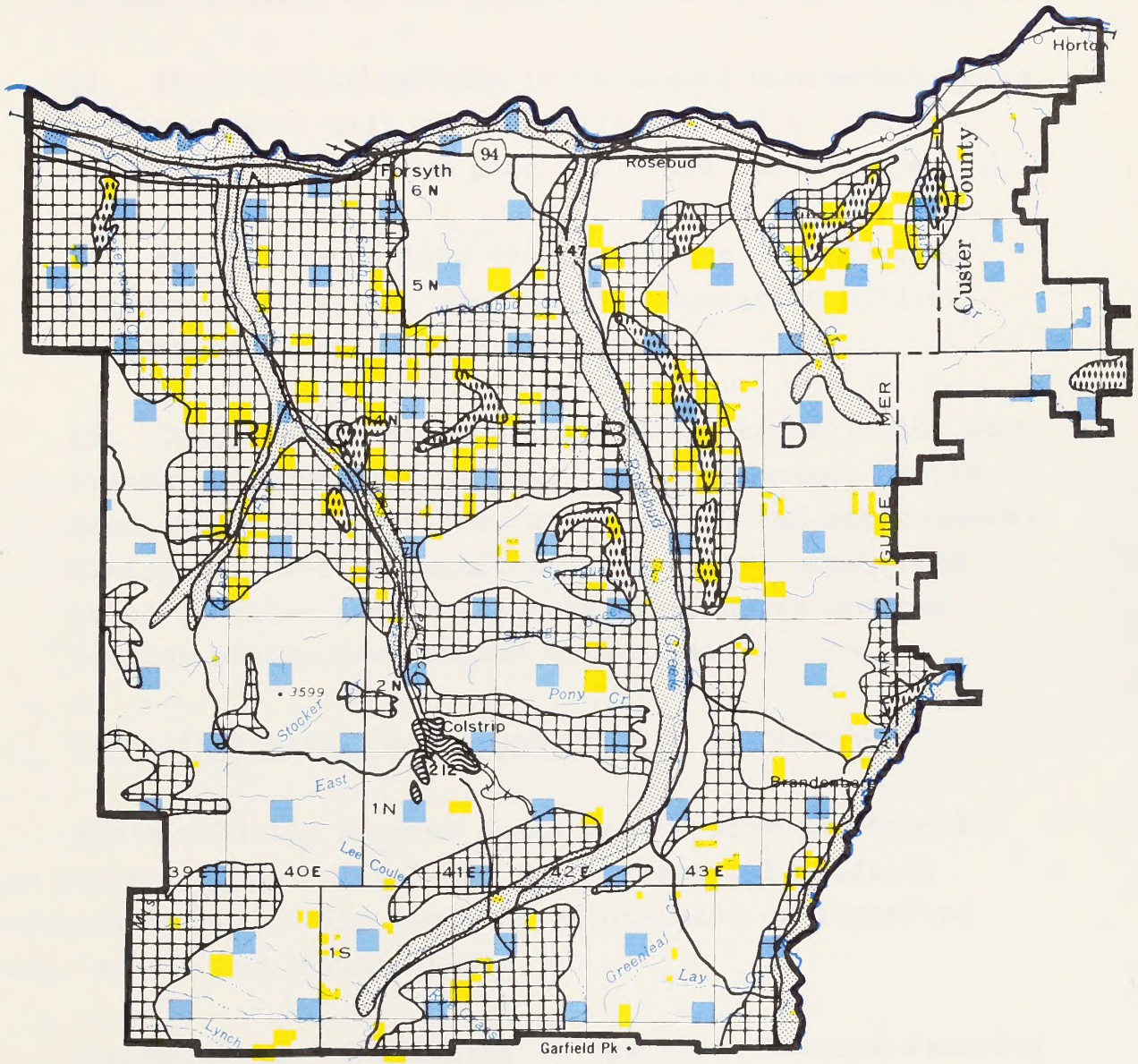
Coal Lease Consideration Areas (See minerals map on page 14) Items 8-12 also apply to coal extraction areas where coal mining is operational or has been completed.

8. Surface and subsurface soils displaced from strip mining operations will be stockpiled and replaced in sufficient depth over spoil piles to maintain long term productivity of vegetative cover.

9. Tillage and seeding practices will be applied on strip mined areas to establish a vegetative cover.

10. All watershed stabilization structures will be timed in sequence with mining and reclamation plans.

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT
Watershed Management



INDIAN RESERVATION

BLM

State

K-4 Restricted Use Area.

K-5 Zone A-1 Alluvial bottoms and floodplains.

K-5 Zone A-2 Manage area to maintain high percentage of ground cover.

K-5 Zone A-3 Limit off road vehicle use and strip mining.

Coal Extraction Area, reclamation of coal mining areas.

11. Areas identified for coal leasing will be inventoried to determine reclamation requirements to restore or enhance watershed to pre-mining conditions.

12. The effects of strip mining on underground water in the vicinity of the planning unit will be evaluated.

13. Strip mining methods in Watershed Management Areas K-5 (Zone A-2) will be carefully managed to limit accelerated erosion on poor soils and steep slopes.

14. Where strip mining will not occur in Watershed Management Areas K-5 (Zone A-3), vegetation will be managed to maintain watershed cover.

15. Coal mining can be permitted in the following ecosystems if carefully planned and implemented: grassland, broadleaf, conifer, brush-shrub, and agricultural. Mining will not be permitted where these ecosystems occur in major stream channels or alluvial bottoms because of low reclamation potential.

F. Wildlife Habitat Management Program (Background)

BLM's wildlife program goals are to promote effective use and management of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats on the public lands by maintaining or improving food, cover, and living space.

The major use of wildlife in the South Rosebud Planning Unit is recreational hunting and fishing. Annually, more than 3,400 visitor days are spent hunting and approximately 1,000 visitor days are spent fishing (a visitor day is defined as the participation of one person in a specific

activity during any part of a 24-hour period). Secondary activities related to wildlife include trapping, predator hunting, bird watching, and wildlife photography.

The South Rosebud Planning Unit includes high quality habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Approximately 441,000 acres are primary mule deer habitat. Mule deer inhabit rugged breaks and dense stands of ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain juniper scattered throughout the planning unit and in close proximity to agricultural and grazing land.

Riverbank vegetation along Armell's Creek, Rosebud Creek, and the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers (approximately 44,000 acres) provides primary habitat for white-tailed deer and represents important habitat for small birds, mammals, and reptiles. Sagebrush grasslands provide approximately 496,000 acres of primary antelope range and approximately 330,000 acres of sage grouse habitat that includes crucial breeding grounds and nesting sites.

Approximately 144,000 acres in this planning unit is habitat for Merriams' turkeys. A productive population occupies Wolf Mountain and another population exists in an area approximately five miles south of Forsyth. The turkeys inhabit rough terrain associated with the ponderosa pine-grassland vegetative community.

Ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian partridge use approximately 117,000 acres of habitat along major drainages where native vegetation is interspersed with agricultural land.

Sharp-tailed grouse are found scattered throughout the planning unit in grassland and ponderosa pine-grassland

communities. Waterfowl, primarily puddle ducks, utilize most of the reservoirs for nesting and brooding. Birds of prey are widespread including prairie falcons and bald and golden eagles. Predators, particularly coyotes, are common and are of economic concern to local ranchers when they prey on livestock.

Several remanent populations of black-tailed prairie dogs exist in the area. The total acreage occupied by these towns is unknown. The dog towns represent potential habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret. No recent sightings of the black-footed ferret have been recorded for this planning unit.

Fish habitat includes stockwater reservoirs and the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers. The majority of aquatic habitats support warm water species although at least two stockwater reservoirs support stocked rainbow trout.

Wildlife habitat on public lands exists primarily in scattered tracts of land that are intermingled with privately owned surface. Because this divergent land ownership pattern makes it difficult to implement site-specific habitat management programs on public lands, the contiguous ownerships are analyzed as a single management unit. The resulting wildlife resource allocation decisions are designed to be broad in scope and generally do not address individual tracts of land. Private lands are discussed only in the context of improving habitat conditions on adjoining public lands or the planning unit as a whole.

Unit Wide (Except in the area of operations where surface mining is permitted in leased strippable coal resource areas)

1. Private landowners will be encouraged to maintain a variety of native vegetation in all ecosystems except cultivated lands.

2. The pine and pine-juniper ecosystems will be maintained and associated understory vegetation will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat.

3. Vegetation will be managed to maintain present densities and increase vigor of key browse species on mule deer and white-tailed deer ranges. Streambank vegetation will be managed to maintain cover requirements for white-tailed deer.

4. Birds of prey nesting areas and potential nest sites will be protected from destruction. Nesting areas will be protected from disturbance during the nesting season, March through July.

5. New power transmission facilities will be designed to prevent electrocution of large birds of prey, particularly eagles.

6. Predators and rodents will be managed for public benefit including sightseeing, hunting, trapping, and photography. Authorized control programs will be initiated only when animal damage becomes severely detrimental to other resources.

7. Existing black-tailed prairie dog towns will be inventoried for the presence of the endangered black-footed ferret.

8. All proposals that would modify existing vegetative communities or result in surface disturbance will be coordinated with the wildlife activity.

9. The adoption of state and federal water quality standards for all waters within the planning unit will be encouraged. Additionally, water quality levels necessary to sustain present aquatic species will be encouraged.

10. All reservoirs on public lands will be surveyed to identify those with potential for stocking game fish. Suitable reservoirs will be stocked. These activities will be coordinated with Montana Fish and Game Department.

11. An inventory will be conducted to identify all sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds.

12. Vegetation within a two mile radius of sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds will be managed to promote adequate perennial grass cover from spring to early summer.

13. Livestock grazing will be managed to promote vigorous stands of shrubs in brushy coulees and native perennial grasses and forbs on adjacent uplands to meet sharp-tailed grouse habitat requirements.

14. Aquatic and shoreline vegetation will be managed to encourage waterfowl and shorebird habitats. This will be accomplished by implementing habitat management plans and livestock grazing management.

15. Public access to public lands for hunting and fishing will be maintained or developed where the opportunity exists. The S-60 program (recreational land use agreements between BLM and private landowners) will be initiated. Land exchanges will be negotiated where feasible to consolidate public lands.

Area A (Turkey habitat)

16. Through personal contacts, private landowners will be encouraged to continue grain farming adjacent to or within Area A to optimize turkey habitat.

17. Vegetation along drainages will be managed to promote shrub understories and adequate grass cover to maintain turkey habitat.

Area B (Antelope and Sage Grouse Habitat)

18. Vegetation along drainage bottoms will be managed to maintain present densities and increase plant vigor of sagebrush. These plant species are essential for adequate antelope habitat.

19. A minimum of 20% sagebrush canopy cover will be maintained for sage grouse in those areas where this minimum presently exists.

20. No surface disturbance will be permitted within a two mile radius of sage grouse strutting grounds from mid-March through July.

Area C (Ring-necked pheasant and Hungarian partridge habitat)

21. Through personal contacts, private landowners will be encouraged to maintain an interspersion of cropland and native vegetation supportive of ring-necked pheasant and Hungarian partridge habitat. The maintenance of native vegetation in fence rows and along field borders will also be encouraged.

Area D (Waterfowl Habitat)

22. Islands on the Yellowstone River will be inventoried for potential waterfowl and nesting and resting areas.

Areas Identified for Coal Leasing (See minerals resource allocation decisions map, page 14)

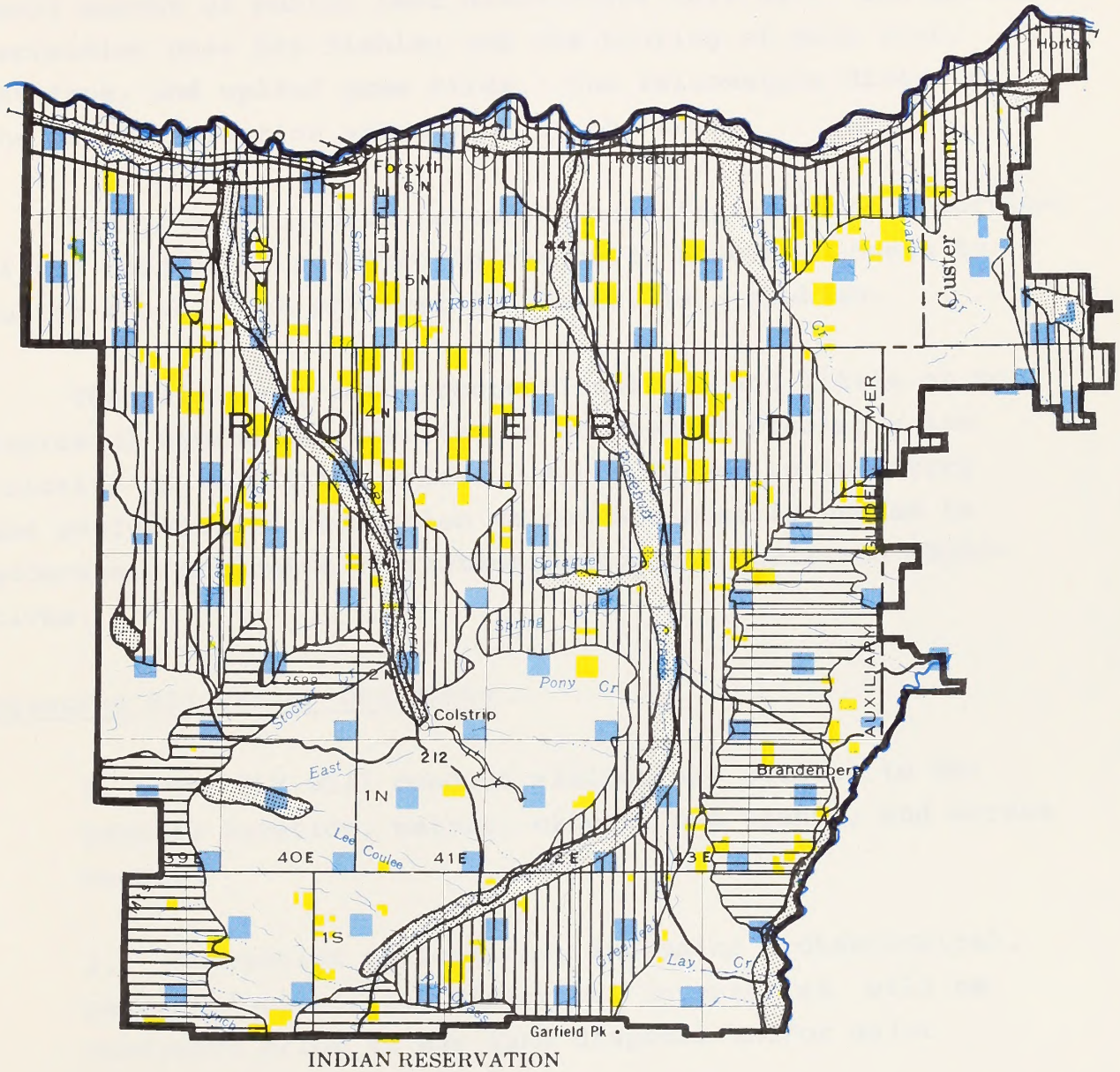
23. All wildlife resource allocation decisions will be implemented on areas identified for coal leasing until such time as these areas are mined.

24. Mining reclamation will emphasize restoration of vegetation and landforms to pre-mining conditions.

25. Permanent ponds (at least one pond per section) will be developed subsequent to mining operations on soils where surface water will accumulate from drainages.

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT

Wildlife Management



- BLM
- State
- Turkey habitat
- Antelope and Sage Grouse habitat
- Pheasant and Hungarian Partridge habitat
- o Public Lands - Yellowstone River Islands

G. Recreation Program (Background)

There is very little data available concerning recreation use on public lands in the planning unit. The remoteness of the area from major population centers and the relatively small amount of public land discourages this use. The greatest recreation uses are fishing and the hunting of mule deer, antelope, and upland game birds. The Yellowstone River is the major recreation attraction in the unit.

Visual and cultural resources constitute valuable portions of the recreation resource in the unit; however, access to public lands, both physical and legal, is a problem.

The relatively minor recreational use and little or no expressed demand has resulted in management placing a low priority on recreation values. A comprehensive inventory and evaluation of recreation values and uses is needed to accurately determine recreation management goals and objectives.

Resource Allocation Decisions

1. The BLM will conduct visitor use studies to determine location, nature, extent, use trends, and access needs.

2. Recreation evaluations, including archaeological, paleontological, and historical inventories, will be conducted prior to any land disposal and/or major changes in existing land uses.

3. Any development or surface disturbing activity within the scenic Class B areas (above average scenic quality) and scenic corridors must be harmonious with the existing landscape.

4. Any development or surface disturbing activity in scenic Class C (average scenic quality) must include all reasonable measures to minimize visual impacts.

5. Underground utility right-of-ways will be encouraged when feasible.

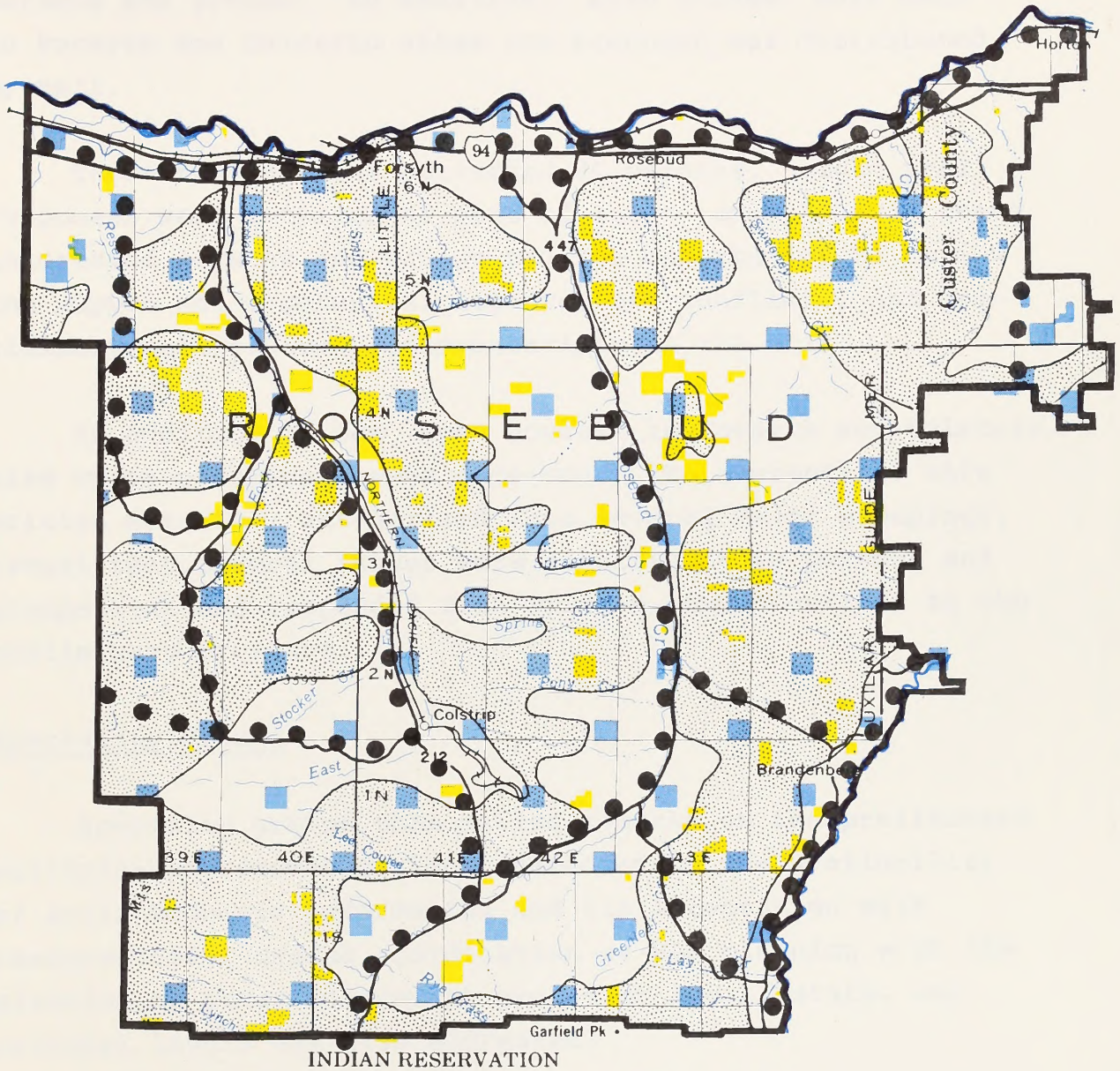
6. Off-road vehicle use on public lands within critical-severe erosion condition classes will be monitored and restricted or eliminated if this use causes erosion problems.

7. The BLM will provide directional and information signing for public lands with public access.

8. Cooperative hunting access agreements between BLM and private landowners will be initiated where feasible.

9. Within potential strip mining areas whenever possible, the coniferous and broadleaf vegetative types and the sandstone will be protected.

SOUTH ROSEBUD PLANNING UNIT



Public Involvement in the Planning Process

Most direct public involvement in the South Rosebud planning effort took place in 1975. A brochure containing preliminary recommendations was sent to approximately 650 persons and groups. In addition, open houses were held in Forsyth and Colstrip after the brochure was distributed by mail.

These two sessions attracted 20 persons. Eight oral responses were received as part of these open houses where interested persons and groups had the opportunity to review the mapped data, potential resource use conflicts, and preliminary multiple-use recommendations in the unit.

In addition to the open houses in Forsyth and Colstrip, nine written comments were received. The contents of this written material, categorized into several major groupings, reveal that several issues were significant to persons and groups that had responded with written communications to the preliminary brochure.

Speciality Groups

Specialty groups that mailed remarks on the preliminary multiple-use recommendations commented on the availability of socio-economic information and its integration with resource data. Needed coordination of BLM planning with the planning of other government groups at local, state, and national levels was also addressed.

One specialty group noted that oil and gas exploration and production activities are generally compatible with other uses of the land such as wildlife, grazing, and watershed protection.

Government

Government agencies that submitted written commentary on the preliminary recommendations focused on possible additional data needs. Possible population growth volume generated by expanded coal development, air quality, underground water, and similar data were discussed.

Industry

Energy and other industrial concerns exhibited concern about the possibility of closing mining areas during the nesting season of particular bird species. Another firm suggested that unleased federal coal would be wasted if surrounding, privately-owned coal that falls within a logical mining unit should be mined. It was pointed out that this is an inefficient resource management practice.

Montana BLM Organization

The Bureau's work in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota is administered from a State Office headquarters in Billings, Montana. Within these three states, the 8.4 million surface acres and 55 million* subsurface acres of public lands are further divided administratively into four districts with District Offices in Butte, Lewistown, and Miles City, Montana; and Dickinson, North Dakota. Each District is divided into Resource Areas to facilitate day to day administration and long-term management on a multiple use basis.

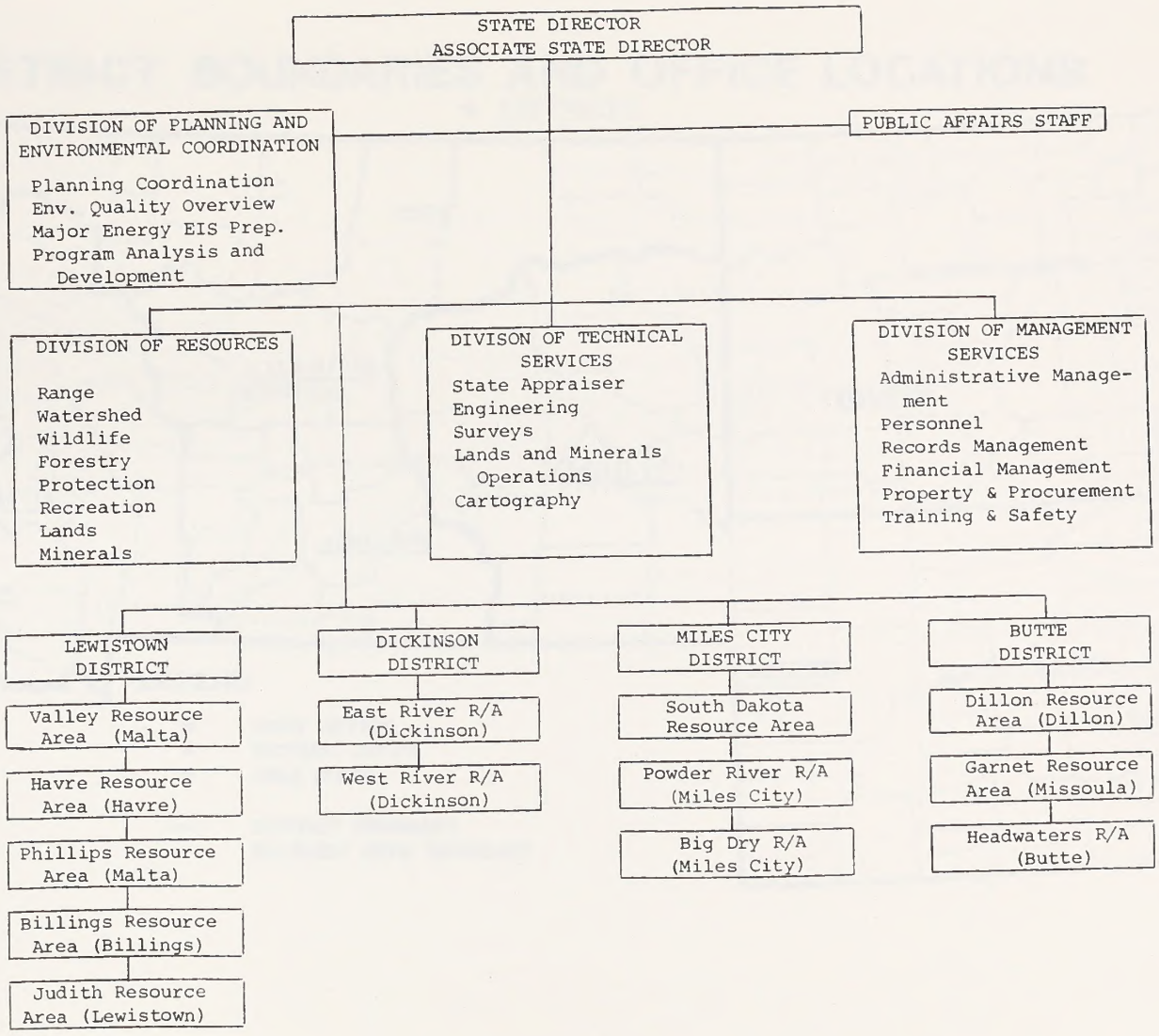
The surface and subsurface acreages administered by the four BLM Districts are noted in the table below:

Acreage Statistics
Montana BLM Organization

District	Surface Ownership BLM	Surface Ownership Other	Subsurface Ownership BLM	Subsurface Ownership Other	Total All Ownership
Butte	1,334,000	33,456,400	2,285,345	32,505,054	34,790,400
Lewistown	3,884,701	33,167,885	8,177,983	28,879,603	37,057,586
Miles City					
Montana	2,785,299	17,363,119	10,910,741	9,237,677	20,148,418
S. Dakota	276,000	48,335,200	800,000	47,811,200	48,611,200
Dickinson	68,000	44,266,720	4,968,000	39,366,720	44,334,720

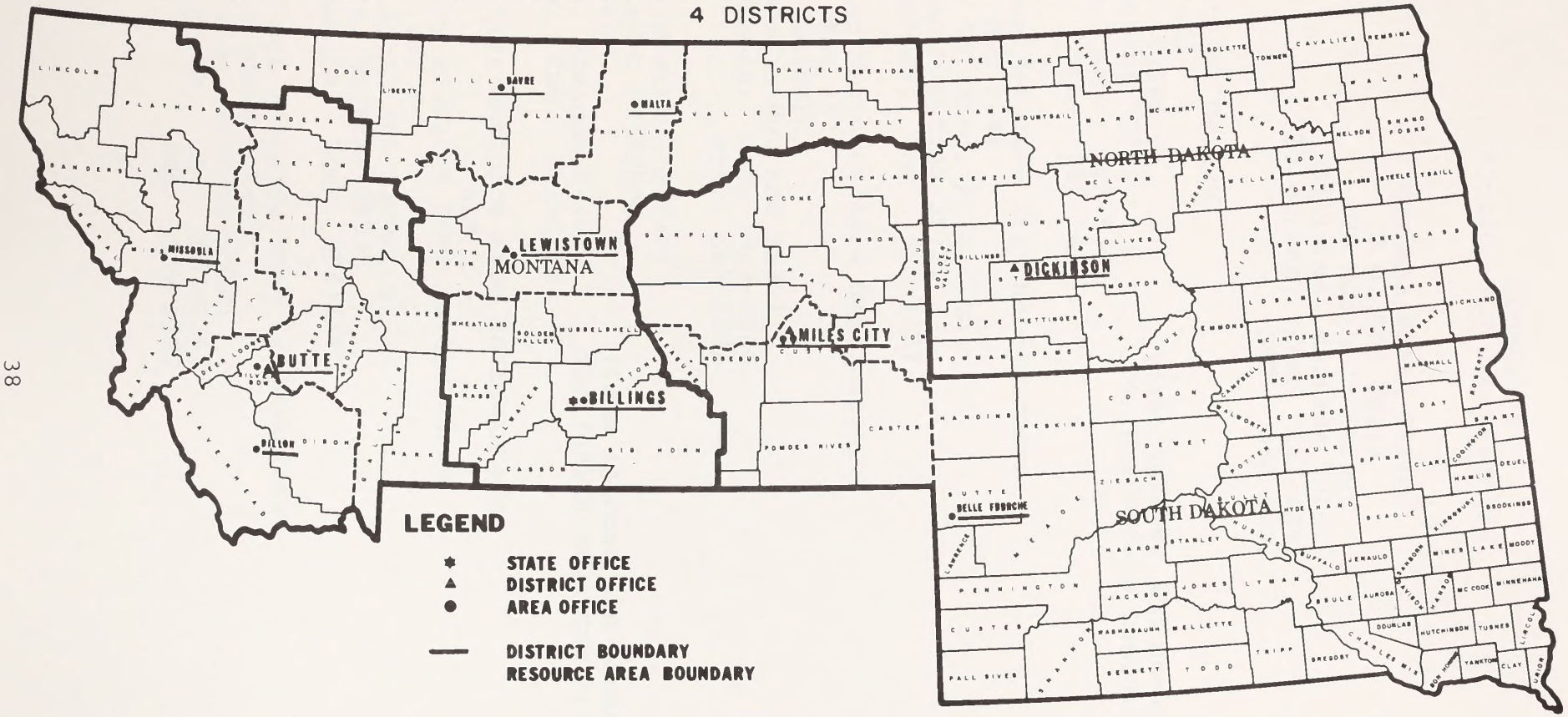
*BLM directly administers approximately 28 million acres of mineral estate and is the leasing agent for an additional 27 million acres of land administered by other federal agencies.

ORGANIZATION CHART
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - MONTANA



DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS

4 DISTRICTS



ADDRESSES
Montana BLM Organization

Montana State Office
P.O. Box 30157
222 North 32 Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6561
FTS: 585-6561

Butte District Office
P.O. Box 308
220 North Alaska
Butte, Montana 59701
Telephone: Com: 723-6561
FTS: 585-2416

(Same address and phone number for Headwaters Resource Area)

Dillon Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 1048
Ibey Building, N. Dillon
Dillon, Montana 59725
Telephone: Com: 683-2337

Garnet Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box 4427
1819 Holborn
Missoula, Montana 59801
Telephone: Com: 329-3686
FTS: 585-3686

Lewistown District Office
Bank Electric Building
Drawer 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457
Telephone: Com: 538-7461

(Same address and phone number for Judith Resource Area)

Phillips Resource Area Headquarters
and
Valley Resource Area Headquarters
P.O. Box B
501 South 2nd Street E
Malta, Montana 59538
Telephone: Com: 654-1240

Billings Resource Area Headquarters
810 E. Main Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 657-6262
FTS: 585-6262

Havre Resource Area Headquarters
Post Office Building
Drawer 911
Havre, Montana 59501
Telephone: Com: 265-5891

Miles City District Office
P.O. Box 940
West of Miles City
Miles City, Montana 59301
Telephone: Com: 232-4331

(Same address and phone number for Powder River and Big Dry Resource Areas)

South Dakota Resource Area Headquarters
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
Telephone: Com: 892-2526

Dickinson District Office
P.O. Box 1229
Pulver Hall
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
Telephone: Com: 225-9148

Form 1279–3
(June 1984) BORROWE

HD
243
.M9
P682
1977

Management framewor
Rosebud planning u

DATE LOANED	BORROWER

USDI – BLM

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225